IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A fan control apparatus for cooling an inside of an equipment body by a cooling fan arranged in said equipment body, the apparatus comprising:

temperature detecting means for detecting a temperature in said equipment body;

temperature control means for controlling said cooling fan according to a temperature value detected by said temperature detecting means;

communication means for communicating over a network with a server at predetermined intervals ~~with a server~~ for a predefined duration~~, the server being connected to said equipment body over a network~~; and

time control means for controlling said cooling fan according to a time value ~~which corresponds to a timing of a~~ associated with the communicating~~on~~ ~~operation~~ performed by said communication means,

the ~~in which~~ controlling of said cooling fan ~~is~~ being performed by said temperature control means and said time control means such that said time control means stops operation of said cooling fan during the predefined duration and causes said cooling fan to operate in a low state after the predefined duration has elapsed, and said temperature control means causes said cooling fan to operate in a high state whenever the detected temperature value is greater than or equal to a predefined value regardless of whether the predefined duration has elapsed.

2. (cancelled)

3. (previously presented) A fan control apparatus for cooling an inside of an equipment body by a cooling fan arranged in said equipment body, the apparatus comprising:

temperature detecting means for detecting a temperature in said equipment body;

temperature control means for controlling said cooling fan according to a temperature value detected by said temperature detecting means;

communication means for communicating with a server connected to said equipment body by a network; and

time control means for controlling said cooling fan according to a time value based on a commencement of a communication by said communication means,

in which control of said cooling fan is performed by said temperature control means and said time control means,

in which said communication means performs communication for a defined time duration at predetermined times and said time control means stops operation of said cooling fan until the defined time duration elapses, and

in which said time control means changes the time value of said defined time duration in response to the absolute time.

4. (previously presented) The fan control apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising operation mode control means for controlling said cooling fan in response to an operation mode of said equipment body.

5. (currently amended) A fan control apparatus for cooling an inside of an equipment body by a cooling fan arranged in said equipment body, the apparatus comprising:

temperature detecting means for detecting a temperature in said equipment body;

temperature control means for controlling said cooling fan according to a temperature value detected by said temperature detecting means;

communication means for communicating over a network with a server at predetermined intervals ~~with a server~~ for a predefined duration~~, the server being connected to said equipment body over a network~~; and

time control means for controlling said cooling fan according to a time value ~~based on a commencement of a~~ associated with the communicating~~on~~ performed by said communication means, and

ramp-shaped rising control means for controlling a rotational frequency of said cooling fan so that when said cooling fan is caused to operate in a high state, the rotational frequency rises in a ramp-shape until the rotational frequency of the high state is attained,

the ~~in which~~ controlling of said cooling fan ~~is~~ being performed by said temperature control means, ~~and~~ said time control means, and said ramp-shaped rising control means such that said time control means stops operation of said cooling fan during the predefined duration and causes said cooling fan to operate in a low state after the predefined duration has elapsed, and said temperature control means and said ramp-shaped rising control means cause~~s~~ said cooling fan to ramp up to and operate in a high state whenever the detected temperature value is greater than or equal to a predefined value regardless of whether the predefined duration has elapsed.

6. (currently amended) A fan control method for cooling an inside of an equipment body by a cooling fan arranged in said equipment body, the method comprising:

a communication step for communicating over a network with a server at predetermined intervals ~~with a server~~ for a predefined duration~~ using a communication unit, the server being connected to said equipment body by a network~~;

a temperature detecting step for detecting a temperature in said equipment body~~ using a temperature detector~~;

a temperature control step for controlling said cooling fan ~~using a temperature controller~~ according to a

temperature value detected in said temperature detecting step; and

a time control step for controlling said cooling fan ~~using a time controller~~ according to a time value ~~which corresponds to a timing of a~~ associated with the communicating~~on~~ ~~operation~~ performed in said communication step,

the ~~in which~~ controlling of said cooling fan ~~is~~ being performed ~~using said temperature controller and said time controller~~ such that ~~said time controller stops~~ operation of said cooling fan is stopped during the predefined duration and ~~causes~~ said cooling fan is caused to operate in a low state after the predefined duration has elapsed, and ~~said temperature controller causes~~ said cooling fan is caused to operate in a high state whenever the detected temperature value is greater than or equal to a predefined value regardless of whether the predefined duration has elapsed.

7. (cancelled)

8. (previously presented) A fan control method for cooling an inside of an equipment body by a cooling fan arranged in said equipment body, the method comprising:

a communication step for communicating by using a communication unit with a server connected to said equipment body by a network;

a temperature detecting step for detecting a temperature in said equipment body by using a temperature detector;

a temperature control step for controlling said cooling fan by using a temperature controller according to a temperature value detected in said temperature detecting step; and

a time control step for controlling said cooling fan by using a time controller according to a time value based on a time of a commencement of communication in said communication step,

in which control of said cooling fan is performed by using said temperature, controller, and said time controller,

in which said communication step performs communication for a definite duration at predetermined times and said time control step stops operation of said cooling fan until the defined time duration elapses, and

in which said time control step changes the defined time duration in response to the absolute time.

9. (currently amended) The fan control method according to claim 6, further comprising an operation mode control step for controlling said cooling fan ~~by using an operation mode controller~~ in response to an operation mode of said equipment body.

10. (currently amended) A fan control method for cooling an inside of an equipment body by a cooling fan arranged in said equipment body, the method comprising:

a communication step for communicating over a network with a server at predetermined intervals ~~with a server~~ for a predefined duration ~~using a communication unit, the server being connected to said equipment body by a network~~;

a temperature detecting step for detecting a temperature in said equipment body ~~using a temperature detector~~;

a temperature control step for controlling said cooling fan ~~using a temperature controller~~ according to a temperature value detected in said temperature detecting step;

a time control step for controlling said cooling fan ~~using a time controller~~ according to a time value ~~which corresponds to a timing of a~~ associated with the communicating~~on~~ ~~operation~~ performed in said communication step; and

a ramp-shaped rising control step for controlling a rotational frequency of said cooling fan ~~by using a ramp-shaped rising controller~~ so that when said cooling fan is caused to operate in a high state, the rotational frequency rises in a ramp-shape until the rotational frequency of the high state is attained,

the ~~in which~~ controlling of said cooling fan ~~is~~ being performed ~~using said temperature controller and said time controller~~ such that ~~said time controller stops~~ operation of said cooling fan is stopped during the predefined duration and ~~causes~~ said cooling fan is caused to operate in a low state after the predefined duration has elapsed, and ~~said temperature controller causes~~ said cooling fan is caused to ramp up to and operate in a high state whenever the detected temperature value is greater than or equal to a predefined value regardless of whether the predefined duration has elapsed.

11. (currently amended) A fan control apparatus for cooling an equipment by a cooling fan, the apparatus comprising:

temperature detecting means for detecting a temperature of said equipment;

communication means for communicating over a network with a server at predetermined intervals ~~with a server~~ for a predefined duration~~, the server being connected to said equipment body over a network~~; and

control means for controlling said cooling fan according to a temperature value detected by said temperature detecting means and a time value ~~which~~

~~corresponds to a timing of a~~ associated with the communicating~~on operation~~ performed by said communication means such that said control means stops operation of said cooling fan during the predefined duration, causes said cooling fan to operate in a low state after the predefined duration has elapsed, and causes said cooling fan to operate in a high state whenever the detected temperature value is greater than or equal to a predefined value regardless of whether the predefined duration has elapsed.

12. (currently amended) A fan control method for cooling an equipment by a cooling fan, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting a temperature of said equipment;

communicating over a network with a server at predetermined intervals ~~with a server~~ for a predefined duration~~, the server being connected to said equipment~~; and

controlling said cooling fan according to a temperature value detected by the detecting step and a time value ~~which corresponds to a timing of a~~ associated with the communicating~~on operation~~ performed by the communicating step such that operation of said cooling fan is stopped during the predefined duration, said cooling fan is caused to operate~~s~~ in a low state after the predefined duration has elapsed, and whenever the detected temperature value is greater than or equal to a predefined value, said cooling fan is caused to operate~~s~~ in a high state regardless of whether the predefined duration has elapsed.